

House File 346 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 346

BY SEXTON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the department of natural resources to include
2 additional water quality criteria in the master matrix
3 used to evaluate applications for permits to construct
4 confinement feeding operation structures.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES — MASTER
2 MATRIX — ADDITIONAL WATER QUALITY CRITERIA. The department
3 of natural resources shall revise the master matrix as
4 published in 567 IAC ch. 65, Appendix C to include additional
5 criteria in the water subcategory. The additional criteria
6 shall include environmental practices used to reduce soil
7 erosion and sediment loss, manage nutrients and reduce
8 contributing contaminant loads to receiving surface waters,
9 and improve surface water quality. The new criteria shall
10 include edge-of-field soil and water conservation practices
11 or edge-of-field erosion control practices, and may include
12 bioreactors connected to field drainage tile lines, saturated
13 buffers, prairie grass strips located in drainage areas,
14 grassed waterways, areas devoted to permanent vegetation cover,
15 or wetlands.

EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

BILL'S PROVISIONS. This bill requires the department of natural resources to revise the master matrix used to evaluate proposed confinement feeding operation structure sites by including additional criteria in the water subcategory in order to account for environmental practices used to reduce soil erosion and sediment loss, manage nutrients and reduce contributing contaminant loads to receiving surface waters, and improve surface water quality.

27 BACKGROUND — GENERAL. The bill refers to provisions in
28 the Iowa administrative code that include the master matrix as
29 required in Code section 459.305 of the "Animal Agriculture
30 Compliance Act". A person constructing a confinement feeding
31 operation structure may first be required to obtain a permit
32 issued by the department (Code section 459.303). A confinement
33 feeding operation is a location in which agricultural animals
34 are confined and fed in totally roofed structures for 45
35 days or more in any 12-month period and includes associated

1 confinement feeding operation structures such as buildings,
2 manure storage structures, and egg washwater storage structures
3 (Code section 459.102). A permit is required if a confinement
4 feeding operation would have an animal unit capacity of
5 at least 1,000 animal units, which would equal 2,500 swine
6 weighing over 55 pounds (Code section 459.102), or if the
7 operation uses an unformed manure storage structure (Code
8 section 459.303).

9 BACKGROUND — MASTER MATRIX. The master matrix is a form
10 used as part of a process in which a person applying for a
11 construction permit is awarded points for agreeing to construct
12 the confinement feeding operation structure or use manure
13 management practices in a manner that exceeds specific state
14 law requirements (e.g., a statutory separation distance imposed
15 between the application of manure and a river or stream as
16 specified in Code section 459.314). The master matrix is
17 comprised of three subcategories including impacts of the
18 confinement feeding operation on air, water, and the community.
19 A county board of supervisors that adopts a construction
20 evaluation resolution may evaluate the completed application
21 and matrix before submitting comments to the department
22 (Code section 459.304), which decides whether to approve or
23 disapprove the application and issue the permit (Code section
24 459.303).